

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05
INT-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 /086 W
-----000492 122117Z /72-61

O R 122050Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8904

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA WASHDC

CINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, BL, ELAB

SUBJ: WHILE DIFFERENCES NARROW, BOLIVIAN HUNGER STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: LA PAZ 0282

1. GOB RESPONSE (REFTEL) TO STRIKERS' DEMANDS WAS REJECTED AS VAGUE, BUT FOLLOWING NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS GOB ISSUED EVENING OF JANUARY 11 PROPOSAL THAT INCLUDES: 1) RETURN OF ALL BOLIVIANS EXPELLED FROM COUNTRY FOR POLITICAL OR TRADE UNION ACTIVITY EXCEPT THOSE GUILTY OF COMMON CRIMES; 2) RELEASE OF ALL BOLIVIANS SUBJECT TO SYSTEMS OF "RESIDENCIAMIENTO" (RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT AND ACTIVITY); 3) IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINERS, THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND THE RESPECTIVE MINING COMPANIES TO EXAMINE THE CASES OF ALL MINERS FIRED.

2. STRIKERS IN RETURN HAVE ABANDONED DEMANDS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TROOPS FROM MINING AREAS AND IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF TRADE UNION LIBERTIES.

3. CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, FATHER JAVIER TUMIRI, TOLD EMBOFF THAT LATEST GOB PROPOSAL MEETS 80 PERCENT OF STRIKERS' DEMANDS, BUT IS STILL UNACCEPTABLE. HIS LATEST COUNTERPROPOSAL, TO BE SUBMITTED AFTERNOON OF

JANUARY 12, CONTAINS MOSTLY RELATIVELY MINOR CLARIFICATIONS TO GOB OFFER BUT ALSO DEMANDS THAT OFFER TO REINSTATE MINE-WORKERS FIRED FOR POLITICAL OR LABOR ACTIVITY BE AMPLIFIED TO COVER ALL BOLIVIAN WORKERS FIRED FOR POLITICAL OR LABOR ACTIVITIES. TUMIRI IS HOPEFUL THAT GOB WILL ACCEPT HIS COUNTERPROPOSAL. HOWEVER, IF THEY DO NOT HE AND FORMER PRESIDENT LUIS ADOLFO SILES SALINAS WILL JOIN THE HUNGER STRIKE.

4. GOB HAS INDICATED THAT THEIR LATEST OFFER WAS DEFINITIVE, BUT TUMIRI STATED HE IS NOT CONCERNED THAT GOB MIGHT DECIDE TO TAKE REPRISALS AGAINST STRIKE LEADERS. IF THEY DO, HE SAID, STRIKE WILL SIMPLY GROW.

5. COMMENT: MAJOR CONCESSIONS GOB HAS ALREADY AGREED TO WOULD APPARENTLY ALLOW ALL PROMINENT BOLIVIANS IN EXILE TO RETURN INCLUDING FORMER PRESIDENT AND POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN JULY ELECTIONS, HERNAN SILES ZUAZO SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NOW ILLEGAL MINERS' FEDERATION VICTOR LOPEZ AND PRA LEADER GUEVARA ARCE. A SENIOR GOB OFFICIAL TOLD POL/ECOM COUNSELOR THAT SILES ZUAZO IS NOW FREE TO RETURN. WHILE DIFFERENCES HAVE NARROWED, IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR THAT SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE IS IMMINENT.
BOEKER

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